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## REPORT ON THE WILLIAM S. VAUX COLLECTIONS.

The Curator of the William S. Vaux Collections would respectfully report that a rough list of all the species in the collection, with the number of specimens in each, has been prepared, and that a fair copy of it is being transcribed in a book to be kept as a catalogue. In addition to this, a large number of labels have been corrected. The additions to the collection have numbered but twenty-seven, but some of them are very fine specimens, particularly two of barite, one of fluorite and one of rhodochrosite, said to be the finest ever found.

A great deal more time than the present Curator can possibly give to it, ought to be spent upon this valuable collection to make it as nearly perfect as possible. He desires to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mr. George Vaux, Jr., in the procuring of specimens, and in advice, and of Mr. S. Harbert Hamilton in the cataloguing, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE D. RAND,

*Curator.*

## REPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

The Section has held ten meetings during the year with the usual average attendance.

A large Beck binocular microscope, with outfit of numerous objectives and accessories, was received by bequest, for the use of the Section, from the late Dr. Joseph J. Kirkbride.

Numerous communications were made during the year, and the following papers and communications were presented at the meetings of the Academy:

“ Evolution of the Microscope,” by Dr. J. Cheston Morris.

“ Diatomaceous Deposits at the Mouth of Pensauken Creek,” by Messrs. Lewis Woolman and C. S. Boyer.

“ Nematode Worms,” and “ The Oyster Crab,” by Dr. Benjamin Sharp.

“ Sewage Poisons,” by Mr. Holman.

“ Parasites of the Oyster,” by Mr. T. S. Parvin.

“ On the Structure of Diatoms,” by Mr. T. C. Palmer.

The communications of importance made to the Section were by Mr. F. J. Keeley, on the spectrum analysis of diatomine, on a Holothurian Parasite by Dr. J. C. Morris, and on observations of various material contributed by Mr. S. A. Schumo, Mr. John A. Shulze and Mr. Lewis Woolman.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	J. Cheston Morris, M.D.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	T. Chalkley Palmer.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	.	.	.	.	Lewis Woolman.
<i>Conservator,</i>	.	.	.	.	F. J. Keeley.
<i>Corresponding Secretary,</i>	.	.	.	.	John G. Rothermel.
<i>Recorder,</i>	.	.	.	.	C. S. Boyer.

CHARLES S. BOYER,

*Recorder.*

#### REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SECTION.

The main activity of the Conchological Section, as in former years, has been expended upon the continuation of the *Manual of Conchology*, which has now reached the thirteenth volume of the second series. The Conservator has been chiefly occupied during the year with the revision of the family *Bulinulidæ*, the work on American species being now completed, the specimens relabelled and returned to the museum.

Various changes have been made in the museum, the principal one being the removal of the land shells of the United States (excepting *Succinea* and *Pupa*) from the gallery to the study room on the library floor. This collection was formerly crowded into thirty-six drawers under the cases of fresh-water shells, and had long since outgrown the space available. It now occupies eighty-one drawers, leaving the space formerly used for the expansion of the fresh-water shells.

The accessions to the museum number about 4,000 trays and bottles, including many species new to science, as well as a larger number new to our collection. None of this material has been purchased, and but an inconsiderable part was obtained in exchange, nearly the whole having been sent by correspondents of the Section in America and abroad for identification, or with the understanding that it be worked up, or to further the work in progress